

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of restoring data transport following a network resource failure in a communication network includes searching for protection bandwidth in a data transport ring where the transport resource failure occurred, and the search is extended to protection bandwidth on adjacent data transport rings, as required, until protection bandwidth for restoring data transport are located or all adjacent rings have been searched. Thus the ratio of working:protection bandwidth is improved by elimination of protection bandwidth between matched pair nodes interconnecting adjoining BLSRs of the network. However, high reliability which is characteristic of a BLSR network is preserved by providing a recovery algorithm that promptly allocates protection bandwidth of one or more rings, as required, in order to circumvent a failed network resource.